

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mische, Hans A.  
Serial No.: 09/733,775  
Filed: December 8, 2000  
For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR TREATMENT OF BONE FRACTURES  
Examiner: Patel, Nidir B.  
Group: 3743  
Docket No. 20395-00001

Mail Stop: Petitions  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

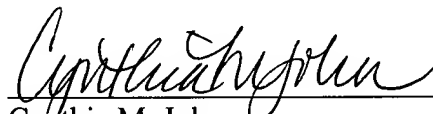
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**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Certificate No. EL927139878US in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Petitions, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 21, 2006.

  
Cynthia M. John

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

This is a Response to the Office Action dated January 8, 2004 in the subject application.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's examination of the application and requests reconsideration and allowance based on the following elections and remarks.

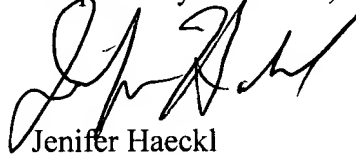
The Examiner is requiring a restriction to one of eleven groups of inventions, as identified by the Examiner, under 35 U.S.C. §121 and an identification of the claims that read on the elected group. The Examiner stated that each of the eleven groups is directed at a patentably distinct species of the claimed invention.

In response, the Applicant elects Group I, identified as Figures 1A and 1B, and specifically claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17.

Each of the Examiner's requirements has been addressed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

If for any reason this Response is found to be incomplete, or if at any time it appears that a telephone conference with counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned in Worcester, Massachusetts at (508) 791-8500.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Haeckl', is written over the printed name.

Jenifer Haeckl  
Reg. No. 41,812